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the history of the Revolutionary period. Sorel's reading has in spite of this been of the most cosmopolitan character, and his breadth of interest constitutes one of the great charms of his volumes. An apt passage from Bossuet or Schiller comes as readily to his pen as excerpts from the drier records of diplomacy. His style is brilliant, now and then perhaps a trifle obscure. The English reader, at least, may sometimes look twice without being perfectly sure of the writer's exact meaning. The excellent proportions of the work, the freshness of presentation, the wealth of illustration and above all the confidence inspired by the author's scholarly industry must, however, in spite of any minor defects, give the work a place among the most notable exoteric historical works of our century.

JAMES HARVEY ROBINSON.

Chapters on the Principles of International Law. By JOHN WESTLAKE, Q. C., LL. D. Pp. 275. Price, \$2.60 Cambridge: University Press; New York: Macmillan & Co., 1894.

As implied by the title this work is not intended as a detailed treatise on International Law; it is a collection of seven essays based upon lectures delivered by Dr. Westlake as Whewell Professor of International Law at Cambridge. The method of the book is neither purely historical nor purely analytical, but a combination of the two. At the outset the analytical method is pursued in order that a clear concept of the nature of International Law may be formed before "the name of law is given to anything discovered in a remote state of society." In chapter one Professor Westlake discusses International Law in relation to law in general. He rejects as "inadequate" the Austinian conception of "positive international morality." Austin conceived of law as predicating a governing sovereign and an obeying subject; in the intercourse between states no such sovereign exists, hence the rules governing international relations fall within the category of morals and not of law. There is no determinate body from which a command may issue. Men, however, distinguish between those rules of morals which they do, and those which they do not, deem themselves justified in obeying. Every society endeavors to express this distinction in certain rules which are acted upon with more or less consistency. A nation does so by its law; international society has *its* rules, which do not differ in kind, but only in degree, because they are less coherent and less positively formulated. "International Law is now not less certain and better obeyed than was the Law of England" before the time of Edward I., when "old local customs, new feudal principles and habits of action, and a good deal

of Roman law . . . were being fused together into our common law." The maxim, *Ubi societas, ibi jus est*, shows the interdependence of society and law. When we recognize a society of states, we recognize that there is International Law, the body of rules governing the relations of a state to all outside it. The term *Jus* referring to both law and right, continental writers have frequently emphasized the latter meaning, while pursuing essentially deductive methods. Westlake aims to strengthen the former view by an examination of the older writers to the time of Vattel, whose work was "the focus in which the schools of reason and custom were first brought together."

Of most interest, because most timely, is the chapter on Territorial Sovereignty with relation to uncivilized regions. The partition of Africa has opened up new fields for discussion in International Law: protectorates of an altogether novel type have been assumed, the doctrine of spheres of influence has been advanced, the validity of treaties with uncivilized tribes has been called in question. Here for the first time in English we have these topics discussed in convenient form. Professor Westlake's position as one of the first of English authorities on International Politics gives this chapter preëminent value; it is to be regretted, however, that more attention was not given to the results of the Berlin Conference.

The last chapter is concerned with the laws of war. Notwithstanding the great advance in humane ideas inherent in civilization, the author is somewhat pessimistic as regards the future. He is afraid "that pity, as an operative force in the mitigation of war, has nearly reached its limit" in these democratic times owing to other feelings of equal extent and opposite tendency, "the consciousness that the war in which the nation is engaged has been willed by it, and the national determination to triumph at any cost." "Zeal for a cause, however worthy that cause may be, is one of the strongest irritants to which human passion is subject;" such was that displayed in the wars of the Reformation. The degradation of those wars might again recur if "socialism attained the consistency and power of a militant creed, and met the present idea of the state on the field of battle."

Notwithstanding these ideas, with which many would doubtless disagree, the tone of the work is admirably judicial throughout. The mental temperament of the writer is thoroughly Anglo-Saxon. He discards *à priori* reasoning as far as possible and is unwilling to make the close and nice distinctions so characteristic of the continental reasoning in International Law. This habit of thought is best displayed in his refusing to accept the distinction made, particularly by Professor Lueder, between *Kriegsmanier* and *Kriegsraison* (the ordinary rules of war and those exceptionally permitted on account

of the direst necessity), on the ground that all actions of war can be justified by necessity alone, and hence differ only in the degree of that necessity. The breaking of any rule of war on the plea of extreme necessity, "even when justified, has a dangerous tendency to corrupt and degrade those who urge it," so that it is better to have no rule at all than one which may be allowed to lapse under such a plea.

A continuation of the work is promised, presenting a full discussion of the latest developments in the doctrine of neutrality. It is to be hoped that it will be as stimulating and suggestive as is this first part.

J. S. REEVES.

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ELEMENTARY TEXTBOOKS ON COMMERCIAL GEOGRAPHY.

In the recent work by Professor Gonner, we have an elementary textbook of Commercial Geography,* written by a well-known economist. Inasmuch as commercial geography is a branch of the general subject of economics, its successful treatment requires an author versed in theoretical and practical political economy. Thus far, works on commercial geography have been too largely compendiums of information; there has been little attempt to treat the subject as a science, whose formulation should consist primarily of the elaboration of those principles of economics which refer to commerce and secondarily of the illustration and establishment of those principles by the statement of the more important concrete facts regarding the production and interchange of commodities.

Professor Gonner has not made a science of commercial geography, but he has produced a hand-book in which the order of treatment is systematic, and the material is well chosen. His method of treatment consists first, in analyzing briefly the physical and political influences which affect the economic life of a country; secondly, in enumerating the conditions upon which successful agriculture, manufactures and commerce depend; thirdly, in discussing the geography of products, to which he devotes nearly half his book, and fourthly, in taking up the commercial geography of each important country. In discussing the united kingdom, he treats of (1) the general physical and political facts influencing the economic development of Great Britain, (2) the way in which these influence agriculture, manufactures and commerce, and (3) then he gives a few statistical and other data concerning the commerce and manufactures. The plan of treating other countries

* *Commercial Geography*. By E. C. K. GONNER, M. A. Pp. xi, 205. Price, 75 cents. London and New York: Macmillan & Co., 1894.